(c) what preventive measures are proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) Necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

Supply of sub-standard Quinine-based drugs by the Delhi Administration

903. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ:
SHRI J. P. GOYAL:
SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the quinine-based drugs being supplied by the Delhi Administration to fight the malaria outbreak in Delhi are proving to be substandard and do not cure the fever, according to the Indian Federation of Doctors;

(b) if so, what is the source of supply of these substandard medicines;

(c) whether Government have stopped the import of effective medicines and if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken against the local pharmaceuticals for producing sub-standard medicines?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government have not stopped the import of any anti-malaria drug such as Chloroquine which is permitted to be imported through the State Trading Corporation.

(d) Actions are taken against the Local Licensed Pharmaceutical manufacturing firms for producing substandard drugs such as suspension of drugs, permission is withdrawn to manufacture particular product which was not of standard quality. In case of minor offence warning is issued.

Electrocution Deaths due to the Negligence DESU Employees

904. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ:
SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) how many persons have so far been electrocuted in Delhi during the last three years upto 31st July, 1985 by open cables of the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking;

(b) whether it is a fact that these deaths have occurred due to the negligence on the part of employees of the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking;

(c) what action has been taken against employees; and

(d) whether anw compensation has been given to the victims of electrocution and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) to (d) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Financing of 'Open School Project' by the CBSE

905. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to fully finance the 'Open School Project' by the Central Board of Secondary Education for the propagation of education; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Open School Project of Central Board of Secondary Education is already fully financed by the Ministry of Education.

(b) The Open School offers a parallel non-formal system for Secondary, Senior Secondary, technical and vocational courses through distance teaching methods. It provides an opportunity for education to second change learners There is a preparatory course for learners with elementary education and it aims to promote the distance learning system of education through research publication and information dissemination. A grant-in-aid of Rs. 30,90,000 was made available to the Open School in the financial year 1984-85. Rupees forty lakhs under Plan expenditure for the financial year 1985-86 has been earmarked.

Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome A Deadly Viral Disease

906. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Health Organisation has detected cases of Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), a deadly viral disease in India;

(b) whether any deaths have taken place due to this disease in the country; and

(c) what action Government have taken or propose to take to control and prevent the spread of this deadly disease?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) No reported case of Acquired Immuno Deficiency syndrome in India has come to the notice of the Government. However, a surveillance on the disease is being kept in the country. The Directors of Health Services in the States, the Inchages of STD Clinics, State Health Education Bureaux and the Blood Banks in the country have been alerted time and again to keep in mind the signs and symptoms of the disease and report such cases when such suspected cases occur. With a view to arousing public awareness, especially high risk groups like homosexuals and blood donors, the State Health Education Bureaux have been requested to provide health education to those attending the STD Clinics, Blood Banks etc. Instructions have been issued to (i) Medical and Para-medical personnel to use adequate sterile injection equipment (ii) blood and plasma organisations to provide relevant information about AIDS to intending donors to promote and encourage voluntary self-exclusion policy.

Kerala Express

907. SHRI K. MOHANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the passenger capacity of 'Kerala Express' running between Trivandrum and New Delhi;

(b) what is the average number of passengers travelled in this train during the last six months;

(c) whether Government are aware that this prestigious train from the South is running without basic facilities; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The passenger capacity of 125/126 Trivandrum/Mangalore—New Delhi Kerala Express is 1236.

(b) The average number of passengers travelled during the last six months is not readily available. However, the census conducted during May 1985 on Southern Railway has revealed that about 1300 passengers travelled on each trip.